

(Raymond W. Augustin)

Docket No.: SPINE 3.0-2144 DIV II

```

:
:
:
:
:
: Group Art Unit: 3738
:
:
:
:
: Examiner: B. E. Snow
:
:
:
:
:

```

In response to the Final Office Action dated March 9, 2006 and Advisory Action dated June 9, 2006, finally rejecting claims 1-11 and 13-15, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows: